



Treaty Series No. 22 (1954)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of Ethiopia

regarding the Federation of Eritrea with
Ethiopia under the sovereignty
of the Ethiopian Crown

Addis Ababa, August 27/29, 1952

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
March 1954*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA REGARDING THE FEDERATION OF ERITREA WITH ETHIOPIA UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ETHIOPIAN CROWN

Addis Ababa, August 27/29, 1952

No. 1

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Addis Ababa to the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs

Your Excellency,

*British Embassy,
Addis Ababa, 27th August, 1952.*

As your Excellency will recall, it had been requested and subsequently agreed that His Imperial Majesty should delay ratification of the Federal Act until the 1st September. I have now the honour to propose that the ratification of the Federal Act be postponed until the 11th September.

2. It is laid down in paragraph 14 of the Resolution No. 390 (V) of the 2nd December, 1950,⁽¹⁾ which provided for the federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown, that the transfer of power shall take place as soon as the Eritrean Constitution and the Federal Act shall enter into effect.⁽²⁾ Since the Eritrean Constitution has already been ratified by His Imperial Majesty, it follows that, if the Federal Act is ratified, as proposed in paragraph 1 above, on the 11th September, it, as well as the federation, will enter into effect on that day.

3. In our recent discussions on this matter, it has been agreed that the words "as soon as" in paragraph 14 of the United Nations Resolution should be interpreted as meaning to provide the minimum of time actually necessary to effect the transfer (*effectuer matériellement*), that is, three or four days, and in any case by the 15th September. I have therefore the honour to propose that the transfer of power to the Federal and Eritrean Governments shall have been completed by the 15th September.

4. I shall be glad to learn whether your Excellency, on behalf of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, is in agreement with the foregoing proposals. In that event, I would further propose that the present note and your Excellency's reply thereto should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.

DOUGLAS L. BUSK.

⁽¹⁾ See "United Nations No. 3 (1951)," Cmd. 8264, paragraph 168.

⁽²⁾ September 15, 1952.

*The Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador
at Addis Ababa*

Your Excellency,

Addis Ababa, 29th August, 1952.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of 27th August, 1952, reading as follows:—

[As in No. 1.]

I take pleasure in confirming the agreement of the Imperial Ethiopian Government to the proposals set out in the above-quoted note and to request your Excellency to accept the present reply as constituting and completing the Agreement between our two Governments in this matter.

I avail. &c.,

AKLILOU.

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